

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a method of comparing data which method comprises defining a plurality of data points in respect of each item to be compared across the complete range of data, converting each data point to a vector spatial function, said function being characteristic of the position/shape and/or relative intensity of the data at that point, assembling the vector spatial functions for the data range in question as a cluster and then determining the kernel function in respect of said cluster, determining a radial basis function for each kernel which is characteristic of all the information in that spectrum and comparing the radial base function of the cluster kernel of the sample item with the radial basis function of the cluster kernel of the other data items within the database.

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